

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 MMO-01 SIG-01  
OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /110 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PRMAYHEW:JCM

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

EUR/RPM:JFROEBE

EA:WHGLEESTEEN

DOD/ISA: RADM HILTON

J-5:VADM HANNIFIN

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R 070040Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: US GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES, WHICH INCLUDE KOREA TROOP CON-

TRIBUTORS, CORE GROUP, AND WESTERN NNSC COUNTRIES, SHOULD BRIEF APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS ON U.S. GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA, DRAWING ON INFORMATION FOLLOWING. (WE WOULD HOPE THAT BRIEFINGS COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE FRIDAY, JULY 10 WHEN UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND GENERAL BROWN WILL DISCUSS TROOP WITHDRAWAL BEFORE HIRC AND SFRC). DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY CONVEYED ESSENTIALS OF BRIEFING TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, UK, FRG, NETHERLANDS EMBASSIES AT THEIR REQUEST.

2. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF U.S. FORCE PRESENCE IN KOREA, USG HAS CONCLUDED THAT A PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES OVER A FOUR TO FIVE YEAR PERIOD IS ACCEPTABLE AND FEASIBLE. THE FIRST INCREMENT WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN 1978. OUR GROUND FORCE PRESENCE IN KOREA WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE PERMANENT; ITS PURPOSE WAS TO ASSIST THE MAINTENANCE OF THE MILITARY BALANCE. WE BELIEVE THAT BY THE TIME THE WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED THE ROK WILL HAVE A CREDITABLE DEFENSE CAPABILITY ON THE GROUND. U.S. AIR FORCES WILL REMAIN IN KOREA AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NAVAL AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT. OUR TREATY COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF THE ROK IS, OF COURSE, UNCHANGED. WITH THIS COMMITMENT AND OUR SUPPORT WE ARE CONFIDENT THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE PENINSULA CAN BE MAINTAINED.

3. OUR DECISION TO RESUME WITHDRAWAL REFLECTS THE INCREASING ABILITY OF THE ROK TO DEFEND ITSELF. THE ROK ECONOMY HAS GROWN ENORMOUSLY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AND THE ROK HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN MODERNIZING ITS  
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MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. WE PLAN TO CONTINUE STRENGTHENING ROK FORCES DURING THE WITHDRAWAL PERIOD AND WILL ALSO CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. WE INTEND THAT THE ROK WILL BE FULLY CAPABLE OF RESISTING AN ATTACK ON THE GROUND FROM NORTH KOREA BY THE TIME THAT WE HAVE COMPLETED WITHDRAWAL.

4. THE GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN A WAY WHICH WILL NOT LEAD TO INSTABILITY ON THE PENINSULA. WE WILL ALSO ASSURE THAT PYONGYANG, AS WELL AS THE PRC AND THE USSR, UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY IS UNDIMINISHED.

5. WE INTEND FULL CONSULTATIONS ON THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL WITH THE ROK AND WILL ALSO KEEP THE GOJ FULLY INFORMED OF OUR PLANS. THESE CONSULTATIONS BEGAN WITH THE RECENT VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND GENERAL GEORGE BROWN TO SEOUL AND TOKYO. ALTHOUGH THE KOREANS HAVE WELL KNOWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT OUR WITHDRAWAL, THEY HAVE

ACCEPTED IT. THEY AGREED THAT WITH APPROPRIATE MATERIEL  
ASSISTANCE KOREA WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSUME ITS OWN GROUND  
DEFENSE. THE ROKG HAS ACCEPTED OUR OUTLINE FOR GROUND  
FORCE WITHDRAWAL AND WE WILL CONTINUE CLOSE CONSULTATIONS  
ON IT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE KOREANS URGED THAT THE  
ASSISTANCE NECESSARY FOR THEIR FURTHER FORCE MODERNIZATION  
BE FURNISHED PRIOR TO THE FINAL DEPARTURE OF OUR GROUND  
FORCES. WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING KOREAN MATERIEL NEEDS IN  
THE LIGHT OF THE WITHDRAWAL, AND HOW BEST TO MEET THEM. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP REDUCTIONS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY PLANS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA  
**TAGS:** MARR, KS, US  
**To:** NATO POSTS CANBERRA MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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